

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 5 is hereby canceled, and the features recited therein are added to claim 1.

Claim 5 was rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikawa in view of Willems. That rejection is respectfully traversed based on the following remarks.

The object of the present invention is to provide a vehicle lamp wherein tree marks (static marks) cannot be formed on the inner surface of a front lens, notwithstanding that the vehicle lamp has a structure wherein natural discharging may easily occur between the front lens and an extension reflector. In order to achieve this object, the vehicle lamp, including the extension reflector, has a front lens which contains a base material having an antistatic agent disposed therein.

By contrast, Aikawa (US6435702) discloses a vehicle lamp with an extension reflector, but is entirely silent regarding the problem addressed by the present inventors, i. e., the formation of tree marks on the inner surface of the front lens. Moreover, Aikawa does not teach or fairly suggest any means to solve this problem. Therefore, absent the proscribed use of hindsight, there would have been no motivation to modify Aikawa in view of Willems.

Furthermore, Willems also does not deal with the problem of tree marks being formed on the inner surface of the front lens by the natural discharging. Consequently, even if Aikawa and Willems could somehow have been combined, the resulting combination is deficient relative to amended claim 1.

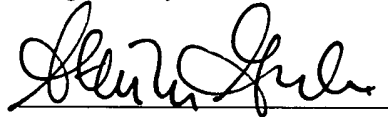
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/977,996

Attorney Docket No.: Q66764

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 22, 2003